

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198521
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 EB-08
INR-07 DODE-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00
EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INT-05 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /135 R

DRAFTED BY D/LOS:GTAFT
APPROVED BY D/LOS:FSMHODSOLL
L/OES:BHOXMAN
OES/OFA/OA:JBROWN
EA/K:DBLAKEMORE
EA/PRCM:RHART
EA/J:SECTON
INR/RGE:RHODGSON
EUR/SOV:WHEDGAR
DOD:FFEDELE

-----116654 202008Z /65

R 200120Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198521

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS:ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA

REF: (A) SEOUL 6586; (B) SEOUL 6681
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PAGE 02 STATE 198521

1. THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES IS THAT UNDER INTER-
NATIONAL LAW THE MAXIMUM BREADTH OF THE TERRITORIAL SEA IS
LIMITED TO 3 NAUTICAL MILES; WE ADHERE TO THIS POSITION
PENDING GENERAL AGREEMENT ON A 12-MILE LIMIT, TRANSIT
PASSAGE OF STRAITS, AND OTHER MATTERS IN A NEW LAW OF THE
SEA TREATY. THE WORK OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR A TREATY THAT WOULD CONTAIN A MAXIMUM TERRITORIAL SEA OF 12 MILES, FREE TRANSIT OF STRAITS, AND FULL PRESERVATION OF HIGH SEAS FREEDOMS OF NAVIGATION, OVERFLIGHT, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL LAWFUL USES OF THE SEA BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL SEA. THE UNITED STATES WOULD THUS HOPE THAT THE ROKG WOULD NOT RPT NOT EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12 MILES PENDING AGREEMENT ON A NEW LAW OF THE SEA TREATY. IT IS FURTHER HOPED THAT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRAIGHT BASELINE SYSTEM THE ROKG WOULD LIMIT ITS APPLICATION TO FRINGING ISLANDS AND THUS EXCLUDE CHEJU. AT THE SAME TIME DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES, AND APPRECIATES, AS PER PARA 2 REF (B), THAT IN ITS PROPOSED DECLARATION OF A 12-MILE LIMIT THE ROKG IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL SEALANE IN KOREA STRAIT IN WHICH HIGH SEAS FREEDOMS WILL BE MAINTAINED. WE WOULD ALSO NOTE THE FACT THAT JAPAN DID NOT RPT NOT EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL SEA LIMIT IN CERTAIN STRAITS.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO APPROPRIATE ROKG OFFICIALS FOR PROMISE OF CONSULTATIONS WITH US PRIOR TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTION. EMBASSY SHOULD THEN CONVEY VIEWS PARA 1 TO APPROPRIATE ROKG OFFICIALS AND TO ELICIT FROM THEM THEIR MOTIVES IN PROPOSING TO EXTEND TERRITORIAL SEA TO 12 MILES AT THIS TIME. IN PARTICULAR, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN IF THEIR PROPOSAL IS IN RESPONSE TO RECENT NORTH KOREAN DECLARATIONS AND/OR ASSOCIATED
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PAGE 03 STATE 198521

WITH OFFSHORE FISHING QUESTIONS WITH JAPAN AND OTHER STATES IN THE REGION. (IN LATTER REGARD, WE BELIEVE A SIMILAR RESULT COULD BE OBTAINED BY A 12-MILE FISHERY ZONE.) VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE198521
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GTAFT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770301-1274
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770841/aaaabiai.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 66ba8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 6586, 77 SEOUL 6681
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1539783
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS:ROK 12-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA
TAGS: PLOS, KS
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66ba8457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009